

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system analysis and design method
2 for use in a complex business environment characterized by a set of tightly linked
3 business processes comprising the steps of:
4 capturing in a framework a world view of ~~a~~-business decisions that
5 occur in a business process/~~or a business application software system~~, wherein a the
6 world view is defined by business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and an
7 underlying model used in the business decision ~~and/or the application software~~
8 ~~system~~, wherein a BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) is used to
9 implement the framework for specifying the world view of the ~~a~~-business decisions
10 ~~and/or a business application software system~~; and
11 using the framework to specify and document each of the business
12 decisions ~~and/or business application software system~~ in the complex environment.

2. (Previously Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~
2 method of recited in claim 1, wherein the BDML is used for creation and
3 maintenance of a knowledge base of business decisions and processes within an
4 organization.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~
2 method of recited in claim 1, wherein the BDML is used for the publication of the
3 functional specification of a business application software system, the world view of
4 a technical research paper in the area of business decisions and its findings.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~
2 method of recited in claim 1, further comprising providing a BDML processor and

3 conducting systematic documentation of said business decision's business objectives,
4 constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model in business processes, wherein
5 said conducting systematic documentation includes forming the BDML as is machine-
6 readable by the a BDML processor and as well as readable by human users so that it
7 can be used for systematic documentation of business objectives, constraints,
8 assumptions, data, and underlying model in business processes and/or application
9 software systems.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~
2 method of recited in claim 1, wherein the BDML supports XML (eXtensible Markup
3 Language) based standards for business-to-business ~~business to business~~ exchanges.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) processor
2 comprising:
3 a syntax processor that checks the syntax correctness and syntax
4 consistency within an individual and between different documents written in BDML;
5 a logic processor that checks logical consistency between different
6 documents written in BDML, each document representing a business decision in
7 terms of the decision's business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and
8 underlying model among the different documents, wherein the check for logical
9 consistency includes checking for logical consistency between their respective
10 business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying models; and
11 a knowledge-based processor including a knowledge base of business
12 decisions, common choices for their decision support models and commercially
13 available decision support systems, wherein the knowledge-based processor provides
14 ~~providing~~ suggestions for a set of BDML documents to improve consistency using the
15 knowledge base.